

ALTERNATIVE PLAN SUBMITTAL SHEET

School Administrative Unit Submitting Alternative Plan:

- M.S.A.D. #35

Contact Information:

Name: DR. JEFFREY B. BEARDEN

Address: 180 DEPOT ROAD
ELIOT ME 03903

Telephone: 207.439.2438

email: jbb@msad35.net

Date Plan Submitted by SAU: 3/24/2008

The intent to submit an alternative plan has been approved by the Commissioner in the approval of the Notice of Intent?

☒ YES

☐ NO

(If NO, please explain.)

Alternative Plan Cover Sheet

(Please attach Alternative Plan as Exhibit A)

Plan Requirements				
Item	Complete	In Progress	Not Yet Started	Need Assistance ¹
Plan addresses how the SAU will reorganize administrative functions, duties and noninstructional personnel so that projected expenditures of RSU in fiscal 2008-2009 for the following areas will not have an adverse impact on the instructional program.				
system administration	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
transportation	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
special education	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
facilities and maintenance	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Plan addresses how cost savings will be achieved in fiscal 2008-2009 for the above four areas.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Parameters for Plan Development				
Enrollment meets requirements (2,500 except where circumstances justify an exception)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
When viewed in conjunction with surrounding proposed units, may not result in one or more municipalities being denied the option to join an RSU	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Includes at least one publicly supported high school	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Consistent with policies set forth in section 1451	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
No displacement of teachers	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
No displacement of students	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
No closures of schools existing or operating during school year immediately preceding reorganization, except as permitted under section 1512	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Collaborative Agreements				
		Yes	No	
Does your plan currently include information/documentation on collaborative agreements? (not required, but encouraged)		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	

¹ Please explain what assistance you need to complete this portion of your plan, and state from whom you need assistance, on the next page.

MAINE SCHOOL ADMINISTRATIVE DISTRICT NO. 35
SOUTH BERWICK - ELIOT

180 Depot Road
Eliot ME 03903
Email: msad35@msad35.net
TEL 207.439.2438
FAX 207.439.2531

Jeffrey B. Bearden, Ed.D.
Superintendent
Email: jbb@msad35.net

Gail M. Sullivan
Assistant Superintendent
Email: gms@msad35.net

Randy T. Stewart
Business Manager
Email: rts@msad35.net

Carole A. Smith, Ed.D.
Director of Special Services
TEL 207.439.9197
AX 207.439.8678
Email: cas@msad35.net

March 24, 2008

Commissioner Susan Gendron
Maine Department of Education
State House Station 23
Augusta, ME 04333-0023

Dear Commissioner Gendron:

Please accept this revised submission of Maine School Administrative District # 35's Alternative Plan. We are eligible to submit this plan due to the fact that our district currently serves more than 2,500 students. This plan addresses how we will reorganize administrative functions, duties, and non-instructional personnel so that the projected expenditures of the SAU in FY'09 for system administration, transportation, special education, facilities and maintenance will not have an adverse impact on the instructional program. This plan was unanimously endorsed by the MSAD # 35 Board of Directors at the November 14, 2007 meeting.

- I. System Administration – MSAD #35 is proud of the fact that it currently spends below the current EPS allocation for system administration. However, at the reduced rate of \$204 per student, we were challenged to meet the needs of our district without having an adverse impact on the instructional program. We examined the new chart of accounts and determined that some functions that were historically charged to system administration could be transferred to other areas in order to reduce the amount the district spends in this area. We are also exploring the feasibility of combining some roles in our central office in order to realize increased efficiency. Finally, we will continue to have conversations with MSAD # 60 and Kittery about the possibility of sharing resources in the area of system administration.
- II. Special Education – Once again, MSAD # 35 is proud of its historic efficiency in the area of Special Education. Our percentage of special education students is lower than the state average. However, some of our case loads for teachers in this area are below the allowable amount according to statute. Therefore, the budget proposal that is currently being reviewed by the Board of Directors includes the elimination of two teaching positions district wide in the area of special education. Our

district has also been proactive in minimizing the number of out of district placements by tailoring our program and providing professional development to our teachers to meet the needs of our students. The Special Education Directors from MSAD # 60 and Kittery have been meeting to see where we can regionalize some services and staffing to realize further efficiencies in this area.

- III. **Transportation Savings** – MSAD # 35 currently shares transportation services in the area of vocational education and special education with our neighbors in MSAD # 60 and Kittery. We currently share a municipal garage with South Berwick. We will continue to monitor our current routes to determine if we can better maximize our fleet. Our district has been approved for two new bus purchases for FY'09 and these are included in the budget proposal to the Board of Directors. Because of the projected loss of state subsidy, the Board may consider delaying the purchase of one or both of these buses in order to lower the current budget proposal. This is not a good long-term solution. For the safety of our students, we need to maintain our fleet and our replacement program but it may provide some short-term savings. Our fleet of buses and vans log over 548,000 miles per year. Our vans are all seven-passenger and meet the required school bus safety standards. We will continue to explore collaboration in this area with MSAD # 60 and Kittery in an attempt to maximize our resources in the area of transportation.
- IV. **Operations and Maintenance** – With the exception of Marshwood High School, all schools in MSAD # 35 are in excess of 40 years and require a significant financial commitment to maintain a safe, clean, and comfortable learning environment for our students. The Facilities Director for MSAD # 35 has been meeting with his colleagues from MSAD # 60 and Kittery to determine if savings can be realized through bulk purchasing of supplies, equipment, and materials as well as the sharing of personnel or contracted services for electrical, grounds, and plumbing requirements. MSAD # 35, MSAD # 60, and Kittery are also exploring the possibility of pooling our maintenance to avoid outsourcing.
- V. **Other** – Another area where we are working closely with our neighbors is within Adult Education. The Adult Education Directors in MSAD #35, MSAD #60, and Kittery have been exploring the bulk purchasing of materials, conducting an analysis of programs and schedules to ensure fewer duplicates and greater opportunities for the citizens of our region. In the past, the directors from MSAD #35 and MSAD #60 have collaborated in the writing of grants and will continue to work together in this area. Finally, MSAD # 60 and MSAD # 35 are discussing the possibility of sharing a director in the future. We have also had initial conversations with neighboring districts about the feasibility of sharing a food services director.
- VI. **The FY 2008-2009 Projected Expenditures** - Projected expenditures for system administration, transportation, special education, and facilities and maintenance. For system administration, the projected expenditures for FY'09 are \$727,825 for transportation, \$1,499,613; for special education, \$3,155,179; and for facilities/maintenance, \$3,439,307. The projected expenditures in FY 2008-2009 for each of these areas will not have an adverse impact on the instructional program.
- VII. **Conclusion** – MSAD #35 is very proud of the fact that we have historically spent less than the state average in per pupil costs yet our students consistently score at or above the state average in all testing batteries. In fact, MSAD 35's per pupil costs are in the bottom

quartile in our state. We will continue to look for ways to collaborate with neighboring districts and create efficient strategies without compromising the quality of education for our students.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J. Bearden', written over a horizontal line.

Jeffrey B. Bearden, Ed.D
Superintendent of Schools